United Nations S/2012/304

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2012
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 10 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following information:

This morning, 10 May 2012, two devastating terrorist explosions shook Damascus, the capital of the Syrian Arab Republic and the oldest continually inhabited city in history. Over 55 Syrian citizens lost their lives and more than 370 were injured, many of them severely. The criminal explosion destroyed innocent civilians' homes and property, as well as Government buildings. Over the past few weeks, Damascus, Aleppo and other Syrian cities have been hit by further terrorist explosions that killed dozens of innocent people.

The escalation highlights the fact that Syria is facing a terrorist onslaught led by organizations funded and armed by parties that openly condone and, indeed, encourage such terrorist crimes. Also behind the terrorist acts are certain well-known inflammatory media networks that have incited, justified and supported those crimes.

From the outset of the events, Syria has stressed that the perpetrators of the terrorist acts, and those who stand behind them with support and funding, want neither prosperity nor reform for Syria and its people. The Government has adopted a new national constitution and then held parliamentary elections, which were characterized by party-political plurality; yet with every reform that it enacts, the terrorism, killings and destruction have escalated markedly.

The latest terrorist acts, as well as the slaughter of civilians, destruction of public and private institutions, and systematic attacks on law enforcement forces, all came after Syria accepted and made a commitment to implementing the plan of the United Nations Special Envoy in Syria, Kofi Annan. The armed terrorist groups have not only violated the provisions of the Special Envoy's plan and the preliminary understanding, on 9 May 2012, they attacked the convoy of the Head of the Observer Mission and his escort, who were travelling to Dar'a in fulfilment of their mandate. The terrorist groups have not denied committing those crimes. On the contrary, leaders of various levels and allegiances have stated that they will continue to perpetrate terrorist acts, and that they are determined to persist in violating the plan, holding the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic responsible. Their purpose is to promote terrorism and support the groups that are working to undermine the Special Envoy's mission by continuing to shed the blood of innocent Syrians.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic hopes that the Security Council will shoulder its responsibility by combating the terrorism to which it is subjected, and that the Council will respond to those States that encourage and incite terrorism. The case of the ship *Lutfullah 2*, which was intercepted by the Lebanese Army, proves that Libya and Turkey are cooperating with other States to send murderous weapons to terrorist groups, in order to wreak more carnage and destruction.

One week ago, led by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Security Council issued a comprehensive presidential statement on counter-terrorism, stressing the need for the international community to coalesce in order to resist, combat and respond to terrorism. The resolutions and statements of the Council should not remain a dead letter. Syria therefore stresses that the Council should take measures against States, parties and media networks that practise or encourage terrorism. Syria stresses that it will cooperate fully with the United Nations observer mission with a view to uncovering the parties that commit acts of terrorism and violence, using every means at their disposal in order to undermine the plan of Special Envoy Annan.

The armed groups and the States and organizations that back them have not made a commitment to the Annan plan. Instead, they have violated the plan dozens of times every day, killing over 300 law enforcement officers between the ceasefire date of 12 April 2012 and the present day. It is therefore clear that those parties have no credible intention of implementing the Annan plan, the two relevant Security Council resolutions or the preliminary understanding between the United Nations and the Syrian Arab Republic. Syria will nevertheless continue to provide the Observer Mission with every support, in order to enable it to successfully fulfil its mandate.

Lastly, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that, despite all of those devastating terrorist crimes, it will continue to combat terrorism and uphold security and stability in defence of its people and sovereignty.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative